

CLAIMS:

1. A method of discovering proximate apparatuses and services in a wireless network with at least one Access Point (AP), wherein an apparatus to be discovered periodically separates itself from its Access Point and builds up its own Ad Hoc Network (AHN) which can be recognized via its Service Set Identifier (SSID) by a searching apparatus.

2. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the Ad Hoc Network (AHN) does not comprise any further elements apart from the apparatus it has generated.

10 3. A method as claimed in claim 1 or 2, wherein the Service Set Identifier (SSID) of the Ad Hoc Network (AHN) includes an unambiguous identification name of the apparatus (UUID).

15 4. A method as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein the searching apparatus queries, via its WLAN transceiver, the signal strength of the apparatuses that have been found.

20 5. A method as claimed in claim 4, wherein the searching apparatus classifies the apparatuses that have been found with a signal strength of more than -60 dBm as proximate apparatuses.

25 6. A method as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein, by means of a Discovery Framework, preferably by means of Universal Plug&Play (UPnP), the searching apparatus is capable of accessing, the services of the apparatus to be discovered.

7. A method as claimed in claim 6, wherein, by means of a Universal Plug&Play (UPnP) search among the proximate apparatuses, the searching apparatus finds that apparatus which provides the desired services.

8. A method as claimed in claim 6, wherein the searching apparatus initially discovers all desired services available in the network by means of UPnP and subsequently determines which services are in its proximity.

5 9. A method as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 8, wherein the period of time in which the apparatus to be discovered is separated from its Access Point is maximally 1 s, preferably maximally 100 ms, particularly preferably maximally 50 ms and particularly maximally 10 ms.

10 10. A method as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 9, wherein the repetition frequency at which the apparatus to be discovered is separated from its Access Point is 0.5 to 100 Hz, preferably 2 to 80 Hz, particularly preferably 5 to 60 Hz and particularly 10 to 50 Hz.